directors have been appointed in the Public Sector Banks of which 17 belongs to OBCs/SC/STs/Minority/OBC Minority Community. A persons, once appointed as part-time non-official director is required to sign a deed of covenant to discharge his responsibilities to the best of abilities, individually or collectively. The deed of covenant also ensures that there is no conflict of interest.

Devious methods used by companies to increase share values

1933. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that certain companies plant fake stories in the media in order to increase their share value;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The listing agreement mandates the company to inform the Exchanges of all the event which have bearing on the performance/operations of the company as well as price sensitive information including announcements of financial results, important developments, shareholding pattern, etc. The Exchanges monitor the various disclosures made by the company.

It has been noticed that several companies deny news reports published by various media in respect of its activities/plans when the Exchanges seek clarification of the same from the companies. The Exchanges have been advised to write to the companies advising them to take up the matter with the respective editors of the newspapers to confirm the factual position if it were at variance with the newspaper report. Also, the Exchanges have been advised to put up the clarification of the companies on their web sites.

Target set by Banks under PMRY

†1934. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the targets set to provide self-employment to youths under the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the target set to provide self-employment to the unemployed has been achieved in conformity with the target set by the banks;

(c) the steps taken against those banks which could not achieve the target; and

(d) if not, whether the same would be considered by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The details of State-wise Plan Targets (Physical) under the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) during the last three years are given in the Statement. (*See* below).

(b) Yes, Sir. During the year 2004-05 the achievement was nearly 99.3 per cent of the Plan Target, whereas in the next two years it exceed the Plan target.

(c) and (d) The progress of the scheme is constantly reviewed by the Government and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.